



# WEEKLY HERALD AND PHILANTHROPIST.

Monday, December 16, 1844.

## The Inland Trade.

Accounts from all parts of the West and Northwest, show a great increase in the inland trade of our country.

**Rochester.**—The Rochester Democrat furnishes interesting statistics in regard to the canal trade at that place. The canal this year was open for navigation from the 15th April to Nov. 28—224 days. This is about the average for the last 21 years.

Flour arrived in 1844, 400,888 bushels.

Wheat, " " 785,028 bush.

Large quantities of Wheat were also received by railroad.

The amount of Wool shipped to the East during the season has been 764,738 lbs.

Canal Tolls in 1844, \$21,046.26

" " 1843, 196,876.00

Increase, 84,170.26

**Cleveland.**—The following table shows the commerce of Cleveland, in Flour, Pork and Wheat, in 1843 and in 1844:

Courtesy House, Cleveland, December 1st, 1844.

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT** of the quantity of Flour, Pork and Wheat exported from the Port of Cleveland during the month of November 1843, and 1844, exclusive of shipments by steamboats.

1843. Bbls. Flour. Bbls. Pork. Bbls. Wheat. U.S. Ports. 45,483 287 54,691 Canada do. 5,308 82 Total value of above articles, 1843, \$225,546.12 No. of vessels entered in Nov. 1843, 125 Do. cleared do. do. 112—241

1844. Bbls. Flour. Bbls. Pork. Bbls. Wheat. U.S. Ports. 49,577 1,020 46,347 Canada do. 2,803 416 Total value of above articles, Oct. 1844 \$236,827.56 Do. vessels entered Nov. 1844, 135 Do. cleared do. do. 112—247

WILLIAM MILFORD, Collector.

**Milan.**—A few years ago, Milan was an obscure town, with little enterprise, and no pretensions. The first vessel arrived there July 1st, 1839; and now, for the reason just closed, the aggregate value of the exports and imports, amounts to about one million, five hundred thousand dollars! The produce shipped there, is brought entirely by wagons. The Tribune of that place says—"A careful estimate of the number of teams required to bring it in, gives an average of one hundred teams a day for the year, Sundays excepted."

**Toledo.**—The Toledo Blade publishes an account of the business of the Wabash and Erie Canal, and to from Toledo, in 1843, and 1844, during the season in each year. The following items will give some idea of the increase:

	1843.	1844.
Beef arrived, bbls.	103	26,415
Pork, " "	1,874	17,415
Wheat, " bush.	98,204	211,988
Pork, Bacon, &c., lbs.	1,026,607	3,380,984
Lard, " "	148,510	2,612,884
Pot & Pearl Ashes, " "	408,934	1,016,796
Merchandise, " "	85,551	119,182
Furniture, &c. " "	41,042	28,041
Staves & Heading, number 13,668	35,334	
Leather, feet	466,942	

The quantity of Corn and Oats is less than last season. "On the whole," says the Blade, "considering the failure, to a great extent, of the corn and wheat crops of the Wabash valley, and the uncultivated condition of a great part of the country along the line of the canal to Logansport, we see cause to be satisfied with what has been done, and of congratulation in the prospect of the rapid increase of its business for the future."

**Southern, W. T.**—The editor of the Southport American thinks that the relative business importance of Southport is underrated. He will have it that town is growing as rapidly as others on the lake border. That it does not receive its due credit, he says, is evident. For example, a consignment of 40,800 bushels of wheat from that place, was noticed in the Buffalo Commercial as shipped from Chicago. He gives a table of the imports and shipments of Southport, from which it appears that during the season of 1844, she has received merchandise to the value of \$293,504, and lumber, shingles and salt, enough to swell the total value of imports to \$320,074; while her shipments have amounted to \$29,543.95—consisting principally of Wheat, Hides, Flax, Wool, &c.—being an advance of 43 per cent. over the shipments of last season. Since last year, the tonnage has increased from 1521.2 tons, to 2025.

Success to our lake towns! What a world is springing up along the shores of our inland seas!

## Congress.

Some of the Washington letter-writers represent things at Washington as very quiet. There is a disposition, it is thought, to defer legislation in regard to currency, the Tariff and Texas, till the next Congress. The repeal of the Gag, which would have made a little earthquake a few years ago, occasions little excitement. The calm is ominous. The slaveholding interest, we doubt not, is secretly laying its plans, and preparing for a desperate struggle to maintain its supremacy.

As to the effect of the repeal of the gag, however, opinions seem to differ. A correspondent of the Richmond Enquirer, says that the vote was strictly a Northern and Southern one, and he feels deeply mortified and concerned. "I look upon it," he adds, "with fearful forebodings, as indicating want of sincerity and good faith, as well as good feelings on the part of our Northern friends. The result has produced a profound sensation here."

A correspondent of the New-York Commercial says that the reading of the President's Message produced no sensation in either the House or Senate. But 28 members were present of the latter body. Several of them, while the reading was going on, were discussing the subject of turnips—Benton was writing letters—McDuffie though in the chamber, paid no attention to it—and in the House it created no more sensation than the third reading of a private bill.

## Legislative Elections.

Last Tuesday afternoon, the following elections took place in the Legislature. Robert Morrison, Associate Judge for Adams county; William G. Servine, Jno. R. Lemen, Associate Judges for Clermont; Michael Cassidy, Associate Judge for Montgomery; William Hall, Associate Judge for Freble; Oliver R. Lorin, Associate Judge for Washington.

## New England Fourier Society.

The annual meeting of the New England Fourier Society will be held in Boston, Wednesday, January 15, 1845, at 10 o'clock, A. M. A spirited call to the friends of association throughout the United States, has been issued by the President and Secretary of the Society.

## Correspondence relating to Texas—Enlarged Views of Policy."

The National Intelligencer of the 9th, publishes the rest of the official correspondence relating to Texas. It consists of a letter from Mr. Calhoun to Mr. Howard, enclosing a copy of a despatch to Mr. King, our Minister at Paris, and of an extract of a letter from Mr. Shannon, transmitting his protest against the renewal of the war by Mexico against Texas.

The most remarkable letter of the series is the despatch from Mr. Calhoun to our Minister at the Court of France, to which the Secretary thus alludes in his letter to Mr. Howard:

"Enclose a copy of a despatch to our Minister of Paris, which you may show to Presidents Houston and the Secretary of State. It will doubtless be satisfactory to them to learn that France is not disposed, in any event, to take up the attitude in reference to Texas."

A despatch to Mr. King, dated the same day, which the enclosed alludes to, gives a conversation between Mons. Guizot and our Minister,

equally satisfactory as that with the King. He stated, that France had not agreed to unite with England in a protest against annexation.

We are to infer from this, that the Adminis-

tration deems it necessary, at least experimentally, to conciliate France, and win her consent to annexation. Is not this an agreeable position for this country to occupy? Why, whether an armament be right or wrong, it is nothing to our own business, not theirs. They have no more right to protest against it, than we have to protest against the conquest of Algeria by the English. The "Democracy" is as fit to pride itself on the slavery, the high spirit of its slaveholding leaders. What statesmen from a free State, would ever have stooped so low as Mr. Calhoun? Has it ever been the policy of our country, in its various plans in regard to the American Continent, to consult the will of European powers, and wait upon their nod? To allow any ground for the assumption that they have a right to interfere or meddle with us, so long as we abstain from aggressions upon them? These chivalrous men of the South have kept up a perpetual clamor about foreign interference, and yet through Mr. Calhoun, their grand representative, at this very time endeavoring to propitiate foreign powers in favor of a policy, which, evil and wicked though it be, is a matter of domestic concern!

But the character of the despatch to Mr. King is still more objectionable.

After devoting three or four brief, well written paragraphs, to prove the expediency of annexation, whether the interests of this country, Texas or Mexico be regarded, (an argument by the way, which we should deem entirely conclusive, were there no slavery in Texas,) he proceeds at great length to set forth what he considers the chief reason for annexation, which is, the extension and perpetuity of Slaveholding Institutions.

One would have thought, after the general indignation, if not contempt, with which the former diplomatic effort of this gentleman, in favor of slavery, in his correspondence with Mr. Packenham, had been denounced by men of all parties, the free States, and by many sober-minded slaveholders themselves, that he would have hesitated long ere he would again venture on so dishonorable an attempt. But, wrapped up in his own miserably contracted views, regarding South Carolina as the soul of slavery, and slavery as the soul of all Civilization, and utterly reckless of the feelings and institutions of three-fourths of his countrymen, and even—wherever the Christians would go, into an elaborate argument to prove to France, that she and the nations of Europe ought to sympathise with the United States of America, in this sublime, republican conspiracy to augment the power of slavery, and immortalize it, by the annexation of Texas, thereby defeating the fanatical policy of Great Britain, the aim of which is, the extinction of slavery throughout the world! This is the noble object of a letter from an American Secretary of State, making nearly two solid columns of matter in the National Intelligencer!

His argument is this. One of the leading motives of England for desiring the independence of Texas, is that slavery may be there abolished, and ultimately, by consequence, in the United States, and throughout the whole of this continent." The "descriptive proof" of this is to be found "in the declaration of the Earl of Aberdeens, delivered to this Department," and in the action of the abolition party in Great Britain.

The motive of England for pursuing this anti-slavery policy, is not philanthropic, but purely selfish.

Humanity may have had some influence in dictating the act of West India emancipation, but she proceeded on the fallacious principle that the labor of the free negro would be as profitable as that of the slave, if not more so.

She knew the importance of her tropical possessions, and how indispensable their productions were to her, and had no idea that she would diminish their value, by her philanthropy.

Experience has convinced her of the fallacy of her calculations. "The labor of the negroes has proved far less productive, without affording the consolation of having improved their condition."

While this experiment has cost her hundreds of millions, without yielding any profit, it has stimulated the products of these slaveholding countries, "which had the good sense to shun her example." Figures are quoted to prove this position.

The great question with her now is, how shall she regain "and keep a superiority in tropical cultivation, commerce and influence?"

She has resolved to settle this question by diminishing and destroying "the capacity of those who have so far outstripped her in consequence of her error, and increasing her own capacity to produce tropical productions."

That, "it would be unwise to refuse a permanent acquisition, which will exist as long as the globe remains, on account of a temporary institution."

Some of the Whig members were so much irritated by this movement, that they called the resolutions insulting. They were definitely postponed, by a vote of 41 to 31.

We have no objection that the Whigs should be thus reminded of their inconsistency; but the Democrats should remember, that in all probability, it was this same Texas business that cost them the State of Ohio.

**Missouri Official.**

Polk, 41,369  
Clay, 31,235  
Polk's majority, 10,118

**Illinois Official.**

Polk, 57,920  
Clay, 45,528  
Polk's majority, 12,392

**Mississippi.**

Jackson "Mississippian" of the 30th ult. publishes the returns from all the counties in this State, according to De Soto and Hancock. In the counties heard from, the vote is as follows:

Polk, 25,061  
Clay, 19,136  
Polk's majority, 5,925

**Missouri State Treasurer.**—From a statement published by authority of the Treasurer of State, it appears that the Treasury is not only empty, but was indebted to the Treasurer to the amount of seventy-four dollars and forty-one cents, on the 30th day of September last.

**THE HOUSE-KEEPER'S ANNUAL.** And Ladies Register for 1845. For sale by dec 14 U. P. JAMES, Peoria.

After magnifying the horrors of an event so calamitous," he proceeds:

"Di missing then, the stale and unfounded tales of philanthropy, can it be that France and other great continental powers, seeing what would be the result of the policy for the exerting herself at the expense of the United States, is so important to her? Her consummation, are prepared to back or countenance her in her efforts to effect either?" What possible motives can they have to favor her cherished policy? Is it not better for them to be supplied with tropical products, than to import them from the United States, Brazil, China, and this country, generally, than to be dependent on one great monopolizing power, for their supply?"

After enlarging in this strain for some time, he comes to this part of the subject, as follows:

"The above is an enlarged view of the policy, which the enclosed alludes to, the one to be adopted by the House of Representatives, in reference to the annexation of Texas, and the grounds upon which it is based. A despatch to Mr. King, our Minister at Paris, dated the same day, which the enclosed alludes to, gives a conversation between Mons. Guizot and our Minister,

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Wednesday, December 18, 1844.

## Session Subscribers.

Session subscribers will be received till the first of January. It will probably be out of our power to supply in all cases the back numbers—but the deficiency will be made up, by continuing to them the paper, one, two, three or four weeks after the close of the session, as the case may be.

Prospectives of the Weekly Herald, the Visiter, and the Facts for the People, will be sent out this week and next, to the principal Post Offices in the West, and to our friends in different places. Will they not do us the favor to circulate them among the people for subscribers? It is marvelous what one person can do, if he will but try. Try it, and you will know,

## Facts for the People.

The third volume of Facts for the People will commence the 1st of January next. The October, November and December numbers of the second volume, now about closing, will reach subscribers about the same time. Subscriptions will be discontinued immediately at the close of the volume, unless renewed. The price is only 12 cents a year. Any person forwarding us eight subscribers, shall be entitled to one copy gratis. We hope those who have interested themselves in circulating these "Facts," will again give us the benefit of their good offices. We wish all persons, intending to contribute their subscriptions, to send on immediately, as we wish to know how large an edition to issue. Eight can units, and so on, note, and if necessary a bit, or twenty-five cent piece can be forwarded by letter.

## Massachusetts and South Carolina.

The importance of the difficulty between Massachusetts and South Carolina, requires something more than the mere passing notice we gave it yesterday. It is not unusual for the Northern States, in their commerce with the South, to employ colored men, as seamen, their constitutions being especially adapted to a Southern climate.

For a long time laws have existed in South Carolina and Louisiana, under which free colored persons from other States, coming within their limits, are imprisoned. Colored sailors of Massachusetts, for example, citizens of that State, on entering the port of Charleston, are seized, taken from the vessels to which they belong, and imprisoned till their departure. The inconvenience to which Northern commerce is thus subjected, and the flagrant violation of the rights of their citizens, thus committed, have created no small indignation in Massachusetts. At the last session of the Legislature, the Governor was directed to commission agents to reside in Charleston and New Orleans, for the purpose of testing by a judicial process, the constitutionality of these laws; and a fund was at the same time provided to defray the necessary expenses. A more unexceptionable way of redressing the grievance could not have been adopted. It was an appeal to the highest judicial authority, known by our Government, and entirely respectful to the States of South Carolina and Louisiana.

The Governor, in pursuance of his instructions, commissioned Samuel Hoar, as the envoy to Charleston, a gentleman, of whom the National Intelligencer speaks, as being "so estimable and so universally respected for his public and private virtues." It would seem then as if every attention had been given, to make the mission as little offensive to South Carolina, as possible.

Mr. Hoar, immediately upon his arrival in Charleston, November 28th, made known in polite terms, his official character and business to the Governor, who at once communicated information respecting them to the Legislature.

The Committee of Federal Relations to whom the communication was referred, made a report, in which they say, "this agent comes here not as a citizen of the United States, but as the emissary of a Foreign Government, hostile to our Democratic Institutions, and with the sole purpose of subverting our internal police." The report closes as follows:

"We cannot but regard this extraordinary movement as part of a deliberate and concerted scheme to subvert the domestic institutions of the Southern States, in plain violation of the terms of the National compact, and of the good faith which ought to subsist between the parties thereto, and to which they stand solemnly pledged."

You will remember the adoption of the following resolutions:

**Resolved**, 1st. That the right to exclude from their Territories seditious persons, or others, whose presence may be dangerous to their peace, is essential to every independent State.

**Resolved** 2d. That free negroes and persons of color are not citizens of the United States, within the meaning of the Constitution, which confers the citizens of one State the privileges and immunities of the citizens of the several States.

**Resolved** 3d. That the emissary sent by the State of Massachusetts to the State of South Carolina, with the avowed purpose of interfering with her institutions and disturbing her peace, is to be regarded in the character he has assumed, and to be treated accordingly."

The Governor requested to exile from our territory the said agent, after due notice to depart, and that the Legislature will sustain the Executive authority in any measure it may adopt to the purpose.

These resolutions were forthwith adopted in the House of Representatives by a vote of 132 to 1, and afterwards concurred in, unanimously, it is believed, by the Senate."

Such is the history of one of the most extraordinary proceedings we have ever heard of. A gross insult could not be offered to the Federal Government, or the sovereign State of Massachusetts. Such an act towards the envy of a foreign Power would be deemed sufficient cause for war. The sovereignty and dignity of the State of Massachusetts were represented by Mr. Hoar. Massachusetts herself appeared in his person, anxious to settle a grave difficulty by a pacific, constitutional resort to the proper Tribunal; and it is Massachusetts, in the person of Mr. Hoar, that is EXPELLED from South Carolina. Were Massachusetts an independent State, she could and would avenge this outrageous affront. But, as one of the members of a great confederacy, her hands are tied.

There is no redress for her. The Federal Government is impotent—the Supreme Judiciary powerless—an emergency as the present, was never in the contemplation of the framers of the Constitution. They could not imagine that one State should avail itself of the immunities secured by the Federal Government, to inflict upon a sister State an insult which perpetrated against a Foreign State, would warrant immediate hostilities. This was a species of baseless against which no provision was made. They could not foresee the depths of crime and meanness, which the practice of slaveholding would sink a respectable State. South Carolina dares not touch a colored sailor on the deck of a British vessel in her ports. Britain, she knows, is not restricted by Federal obligations. But, Massachusetts is stripped of the power of

defending her citizens—and the Federal Government guarantees them no protection. Hence, South Carolina, brave, chivalric South Carolina, impudently sends her police ministers on board Massachusetts vessels, seizes and imprisons her citizens, and then, when the aggrieved State sends her envoy peacefully to contest the constitutionality of such conduct, EXPELS him from her bounds, without even a hearing! And why? She believes she can do so without perfect impunity.

MISUNDERSTANDING.—A friend has taken exception to the following remarks, in our article some months since on National Rights. Speaking of the Revolutionists of Rhode Island, we said:

"We believe that they erred seriously in resorting so hastily to physical force. They should first have tried fully the effect of peaceful and constitutional agitation, soliciting the sympathy and co-operation of States, and then, if all else failed, they could have appealed to the example of our fathers, and the warning of those principles they promulgated as the foundation principles of this Republic, in justification of the last resort."

Our friend understands this as a justification of "physical force," in certain cases. Although not a non-resistant, we did not intend to express any opinion of the propriety or impropriety of this "last resort;" we meant simply to say, and we think our language bears this construction alone that the example and principles of those who fought in 1776, might be plead as a warranty by those who should fight in 1844, in a similar emergency. Whether that example and those principles were right or wrong, we express no opinion: for we love the Cause of Peace, and did not wish to be *subversives* into any discussions in which we might appear hostile to it.

**Congress.—The Right of Petition—Texas, &c.**

It would really seem as if the Democratic members from the free States in the House of Representatives, were in earnest in their new demonstration of regard for the right of Petition. Despite the votes and struggles of their Northern allies, they have taken the matter into their own hands, and seem resolved to manage it in their own way. This must prove rather a vexatious symptom of independence to the slaveholding masters.

When Mr. Adams, on the 10th, presented the New-York memorial for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, the first effort was, as we apprehended it would be, to adopt the gag policy of the South. Mr. Black (slaveholder) raised the question of reception, and Mr. Brown (servile from Indiana) moved that that question lie on the table. The yeas and nays were ordered. In reply to a question by Mr. Winthrop, the speaker said, if the motion prevailed, the memorial would not be received. In the Senate, the decision has uniformly been the reverse of this. The motion was then put, and rejected—30 yeas, 99 nays. The memorial was received by a formal vote—107 to 81. The question then recurring on a motion made by Mr. Adams to refer it to the Committee on the District of Columbia, Mr. Tibbets moved to lay the memorial on the table, and the vote stood—yeas 88, nays 99. Mr. Chapman of Alabama, moved that the House adjourn, but the House would not adjourn; and, the question being taken, the memorial was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

It is evident that a new policy has been resolved upon, and, judging from the remarkable silence of Dromgoole, Holmes, and other leading spirits of the South, we infer that they, though recording their votes against it, rather acquiesce in it, for the sake probably of some ulterior object.

On the 10th, J. R. Ingersoll of Philadelphia, presented a memorial praying a change in the naturalization law, which, on his motion, was referred to the Committee on the Benton.

On the 11th, in the Senate, Mr. Bent introduced a bill for the annexation of Texas, substantially the same as the one he brought forward last session. It is understood to be a movement in direct opposition to Mr. McDougal, whose joint resolution includes the treaty negotiated by Mr. Calhoun. After two readings, it was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

We are glad to notice that Senator Tappan, the same day, announced that he should ask leave to bring in a bill "to endow the Smithsonian Institute."

Mr. Johnson introduced a resolution to instruct the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of modifying the naturalization law. It lies over one day.

Another resolution of importance, was presented, calling upon the Executive for information respecting any correspondence with France, in regard to annexation. This was laid over one day, but ere this, we trust, has been adopted. Let us have light upon this grand conspiracy in behalf of slavery, which our American Secretary of State has been trying to organize.

Another resolution of no less importance, calling upon the Executive for information in relation to the negotiations concerning Oregon offered by Mr. Allen, was opposed by Mr. Archer, who said that a conversation which he had had with the Secretary of State, had led him to conclude that "the papers in question could not be returned to Oregon. The truth, as we suspect, is that Mr. Calhoun has shown so little zeal in pushing this negotiation, important as it is, as to render it difficult to believe that he is ashamed to have the correspondence appear, lest his lukewarmness on this question may injure the interests of annexation. There is no slavery to be benefited by the settlement of the Oregon question. Mr. Allen pushed his resolution of inquiry, which was at last adopted, by 24 yeas to 16 nays, some four or five Senators only from the free States voting against it.

On the same day, in the House, in Committee of the Whole, Dr. Duncan's bill in relation to Presidential elections, was laid aside to re-

port. House bill No. 2, was then taken up, its title being, "To reduce and graduate the price of public lands in favor of settlers and cultivators." It provides that lands, subject to entry, which have remained five years unsold, prior to the date of the act, or to the time of application for entry, may be entered for cultivation or settlement, or for the use of an adjacent farm or plantation, at \$1 per acre—those which have remained ten years, at 75 cents per acre; those which have remained 15 years, at 50 cents; and those, for 30 years, at 25 cents—for any quantity not over 320 acres. This important bill was discussed at length by Messrs. Collier of Vermont, and Vinton of Ohio, in opposition to it, and Messrs. Semple of Illinois, and Davis of Indiana, in support of it. And the Committee then rose.

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\* \* \* Should the writer be mistaken as regards the Reformation Periodicals, let them correct him by re-publication from this paper his articles.

## Correspondence.

We have a great crowd of communication's on hand, but there is at present no much important matter of universal interest to be published, that we must solicit the indulgence of our correspondents, if we keep them waiting. A few things, however, it is proper under this head to notice.

MISUNDERSTANDING.—A friend has taken exception to the following remarks, in our article some months since on National Rights. Speaking of the Revolutionists of Rhode Island, we said:

"We believe that they erred seriously in resorting so hastily to physical force. They should first have tried fully the effect of peaceful and constitutional agitation, soliciting the sympathy and co-operation of States, and then, if all else failed, they could have appealed to the example of our fathers, and the warning of those principles they promulgated as the foundation principles of this Republic, in justification of the last resort."

Our friend understands this as a justification of "physical force," in certain cases.

He believes she can do so without perfect impunity.

A Voice from Virginia.

An intelligent gentleman in Virginia has requested us to publish a series of articles from his pen on the moral aspects of the Slave.

He writes:

"I am a man of strong religious convictions, and I have a strong desire to do my duty to God and my fellow creatures."

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# WEEKLY HERALD AND PHILANTHROPIST.

## POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.

Post Office Department,  
23rd November, 1844.

To the President of the United States:

The public will be gratified to know, and no doubt to the Country, to be informed, as promptly as to a detailed report of the operations of this Department during the past year, and of its present condition, that for the time it has been under the superintendence of the undersigned, and that it is well worth your Administration, its current expenses have been met by its revenue, and the amount of service is now greater than at the commencement of the year 1841.

A full and exact statement of the usefulness of the Department, would have been made, but for embarrassments and difficulties it had to encounter by the operations of private mails established upon the leading lines of post roads connecting the important commercial cities and towns of the United States.

In the absence of that legislation, heretofore suggested as necessary to protect the Department against the inroads upon its revenue, there is cause of congratulation, if not surprise, that I have not been compelled to curtail the service below its present amount.

The total transportation of the mail, horse, and in stages, including remittances, was for the year ending 30th June, 1844, as follows:

Letter postage,	\$6,767,161 53
Newspaper postage,	549,743 83
Fines,	133 00
Miscellaneous receipts,	11,245 47

Total revenue reported, \$4,327,288 83

The total amount of expenditure settled and paid for the same period is \$296,867 70.

The year which has passed has been distinguished in many portions of the country, particularly in the South, by a series of rains and floods interposing obstruction to the regular transit of the mails, which it was impossible for the most vigilante and enterprising contractors to overcome. With exceptions of this kind, the service has been good, and the post roads have been well maintained.

The revenue collected by Postmasters within the last four months has been collected, or will be, sustained by the Government.

Contractors, and all others having legal claims upon the department, have been, during the same period, fully satisfied.

It gives me pleasure to say of the discharging agent of that Department, that he has discharged his trust with a commendable fidelity. The whole amount of appropriations, for the last four years, which has been collected by him, has been regularly paid into the Treasury, up to the 30th September, 1844, and every dollar legally and properly accounted for.

The various duties of the Assistants and Clerks of the Department have been well and efficiently performed.

The Report of the First Assistant Postmaster General, of the extent and nature of the service for the last eight years, with costs of transportation, accounts, and other papers, to be found in the volume containing valuable statistical information of the amount of capital employed in the transportation of the mail, will also be seen, by the same report, at a recent letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 12th of October, 1844, is nineteen hundred and thirty-four. Amount of alleged loss, \$62,135. Amount of money recovered, or loss satisfactorily ascertained, \$304,342. One hundred mail dependents have been arrested and tried, during the same period.

I am warranted in the expression of the opinion, that the number of mail depositions has been diminished within the last few years, and greater security, by better vigilance, has given me confidence in this mode of transmitting money from one portion of the country to the other.

From the above facts it may be inferred that the Agents of the Post Office have been more alertly ministering to the duty. It is not alone to silent investigations into cases of loss by mail that their labors have been confined. They are charged with a general out-door superintendence of the post roads, and the preservation of the public property of the Department.

The necessity and importance of such supervision, and the advantage of a strict system of responsibility, may, in some degree, be known from the value of the expense incurred, for a protection of this public property. Take, for instance, the item of the cost of mail bags. The amount expended for this purpose, for the four years, including the amount of suspected suspense, prior to the first of July, 1841, which is of about \$1,000,000, was paid in 1841 and 1842, was \$216,889. The amount actually expended for the four years preceding the 1st of July, 1844, is \$70,558 40.

The Agent of the Post Office, who formed the Constitution of the United States, has the necessity that the power to establish post offices and post roads, and to conduct the operations of the mail, was one which is useful and commendable with the public; but it is not so, if it be exercised, without a due regard to the interest and diversified interests, must be exclusively vested in the Congress of the United States, whose legislative functions and supervision would pervade the whole sphere of the operation of that power.

The expense of the post roads must be sustained by the same power which created and controls it.

For reasons obvious to those who founded the post office system of the United States, the principal object must sustain itself by its own operations, and not be dependent upon the aid of the public, to every subsequent act of legislation concerning the Department. Whilst it has ever been required to sustain its own expenses, unlike the systems of some other countries, it has not been regarded as a source of revenue to the General Treasury.

Our predecessors seem to have adopted the rule that those who used the Post Office Department for individual purposes or benefits, should defray the expense of carrying their letters, and delivering their letters. That, as it had to be sustained by a tax of some sort, the mode of collecting that tax by post on letters, &c., being voluntary, was not general, and has heretofore proved acceptable to the community.

It was thought, in the infancy of our Republic, that it was unwise, if not unjust, that those who did not use the Post Office, should be directly taxed for the benefit of those who did. Hence they imposed such a tariff of postage, as to be equivalent to every subsequent act of legislation concerning the Department. Whilst it has ever been required to sustain its own expenses, unlike the systems of some other countries, it has not been regarded as a source of revenue to the General Treasury.

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